



European Committee
of the Regions



2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE
COP 15 - CP/MOP 10 - NP/MOP 4
Ecological Civilization - Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
KUNMING - MONTREAL

Taking action for biodiversity

EU cities and regions at CBD COP15

Montréal, Canada
7-19 December 2022



Green Deal Going Local

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Vasco Alves Cordeiro

President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR).

Co-president of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM).

Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of the Azores, Portugal.



Roby Biver (LU/PES)

Member of Bettembourg Municipal Council, Luxembourg.

CoR Rapporteur on *'Bio-diverse cities and regions beyond 2020 at the UN CBD COP 15 and in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030'* and on *'EU Nature Restoration Law'*.



Frida Nilsson (SE/Renew Europe)

Member of a Lidköping Municipality, Sweden.

CoR Rapporteur on *'Local and regional authorities accelerating the implementation of the EU Pollinators Initiative'*.

“ Our planet's health is critically endangered, and urgent action to protect people and nature is needed. Cities and regions are pioneers in fighting biodiversity loss and are well aware of the ecosystem services that nature provides for the wellbeing of our citizens. Local and regional authorities need to be systematically involved in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure we move from goals to achievements. The Edinburgh Declaration clearly demonstrates that subnational governments stand ready to play a stronger role for achieving the 2050 vision on biodiversity. ”

Vasco Alves Cordeiro,

President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)



Read the CoR opinion “Bio-diverse cities and regions beyond 2020 at the UN CBD COP 15 and in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030” by Roby Biver (LU/PES).



Read the CoR opinion “Local and regional authorities accelerating the implementation of the EU Pollinators Initiative” by Frida Nilsson (SE/Renew Europe).

The European Committee of the Regions - the EU's political assembly of cities and regions - will participate to the CBD COP15 representing the voices of local and regional authorities and deploying all efforts to develop an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In order to achieve the 2050 Vision "Living in harmony with nature", **EU local and regional authorities stand ready to take urgent action** across society in order to put biodiversity on a path to recovery for the benefit of the planet and people. The Edinburgh Declaration is a key milestone in ensuring greater reference to the contributions of subnational governments and cities to the achievement of global biodiversity goals and targets. Building on its endorsement and in strong advocacy efforts, **the European Committee of the Regions:**

- calls on the international community to make the 15th Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity "**the Montréal Moment for Biodiversity**" and a wake-up call to irreversibly and urgently bend the curve in the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, respecting the planetary boundaries.
- stresses that, despite increasing acknowledgement, a formal and systemic **recognition of the key role of Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for biodiversity**, and a "whole-of-government approach" in each step and at every level of the biodiversity governance process, are still lacking in both the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- supports the goal of the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** for accelerating and massively scaling up the global restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply, biodiversity and human health.
- calls for **prioritising a Long-term Approach to Biodiversity Mainstreaming (LTAM)**, horizontally and vertically, across policy areas and sectors at subnational and local levels, and notes that subnational governments, as the local public governance interface with civil society and the private sector, are best positioned to address ecosystem restoration and protection in specific local and regional contexts, pooling resources and utilising economies of scale.
- calls on CBD Parties to significantly step-up public funding as the backbone of **resource mobilisation**, collected by and distributed to subnational governments and cities for investment in biodiversity action at their level, with special consideration of biodiversity hotspots, in order to create enabling conditions for private sector investment.
- echoes the **Edinburgh Declaration**, calling upon parties to the CBD to take strong and bold actions to bring about transformative change in order to halt biodiversity loss. It also supports a new dedicated Decision to be adopted at COP15 for the greater inclusion of subnational governments, cities and local authorities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; that builds upon and renews the **Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020)**.
- notes that the **European Committee of the Regions** is mentioned in this dedicated Decision as a key partner and supporter for the implementation of the Plan of Action, and stands ready to accelerate action to halt biodiversity loss, and restore ecosystems at local and regional level, as well as to continue cooperating with the **Advisory Committee on Subnational and Local Governments and Biodiversity** and the Edinburgh process partners.
- advocates for establishing a **multi-stakeholder platform that ensures representation of subnational governments**, cities and local authorities to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and welcomes CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature as the official platforms to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming & Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People.
- **calls on the EU** to supply sufficient resources, technical assistance, funding opportunities, capacity development and guidance to local and regional authorities in order to implement nature conservation and restoration measures, site management, nature-based solutions, and urban greening plans, as well as to ensure links with climate mitigation and adaptation activities, with a view to achieving ambitious and successful biodiversity action on the ground.
- underlines the **importance of pollinators** to the sustainability of our societies and nature and its key role in food systems, in maintaining biodiversity and landscapes; urges the need to address the decline of pollinators internationally and to advocate strong measures to protect pollinators and their habitats in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; highlights the possibilities and responsibilities of local and regional authorities in adopting and implementing measures to grow pollinator populations.



European Committee of the Regions





“Created in 1994, after the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU’s assembly of 329 regional and local representatives from all 27 Member States, representing over 447 million Europeans. Its main objectives are to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU’s decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council have to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union as a means of upholding EU law where there are breaches to the subsidiarity principle or failures to respect regional or local authorities.”

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